

Egyptian Said to Admit Spying for U.S.

By HEDRICK SMITH
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CAIRO, July 27 — Mustafa Amin, a prominent Cairo newspaper editor who was arrested last week, has confessed that he worked for the United States Central Intelligence Agency, official Egyptian sources said today.

Other highly placed Egyptian informants said the authorities here had been unwittingly led to Mr. Amin by Bruce T. Odell, an American official whom the Egyptians have accused by being Mr. Amin's C.I.A. contact.

According to these sources, the Government learned that Mr. Odell was asked some time ago to leave Iraq because of "suspicious activities" there. He was put under surveillance as soon as he arrived in Cairo last August. The American was reported to have led Egyptian authorities to suspect Mr. Amin of espionage last March.

Mr. Amin was arrested last Wednesday while lunching with Mr. Odell at his villa in Alexandria. Egyptian intelligence agents said they found the two men swapping notes. Mr. Odell was released after questioning and returned to Washington two days ago.

Amin's Brother Implicated

Egyptian officials said that in his confession Mr. Amin implicated his brother Ali Amin, who is in London as a correspondent for the newspaper Al-Ahram, whose editor is a close associate of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The paper stopped printing Ali Amin's column last week as soon as his brother's arrest was announced.

The confession, according to Egyptian officials, said Mustafa Amin had given his brother half the money he had been paid for intelligence work. These sources said the last sum transferred to Ali Amin in London was the equivalent of \$36,000.

The United States Embassy, asked about the confession and the alleged activities of Mr. Odell, declined to comment. Informal sources confirmed that Mr. Odell had served in Iran and Iraq, among other countries.

Although Mr. Amin's arrest has touched off a wave of rumors about espionage and plots, which President Nasser attempted to stem in a speech last night, there has been little

anti-American sentiment. The Egyptian press has given minimal display to the story and President Nasser has made only one allusion to the case in two major speeches in the last week.

Apartment Watched

Egyptian officials said Mr. Amin admitted having begun intelligence training on a visit to the United States several years ago. Other well-placed informants said the Egyptian authorities did not become aware of his role until last March.

These informants said agents watching Mr. Odell had spotted him coming out of an apartment building in suburban Heliopolis. Twenty minutes later Mr. Amin is said to have come from the same building without any apparent reason for having been there.

Agents are reported to have found that Mr. Amin had secretly rented an apartment in the building. He was put under surveillance and, according to informed sources, tape recordings of his conversations disclosed that he was passing sensitive information to Mr. Odell.

Egyptian officials also indicated that suspicions were aroused when they came to believe that Mr. Amin was living beyond his means. They estimated his annual expenditures at the equivalent of about \$27,000, more than twice his annual salary.

Usually well-informed sources said that three more Egyptians had been arrested so far in the case and that a number of others had been questioned and released.

German Pleads Guilty

In another espionage case, Wolfgang S. Lotz, a 44-year-old West German horse breeder, pleaded guilty in the State Security Court to charges of having spied against Egypt for Israeli intelligence.

He pleaded not guilty to charges of having attempted to kill German Rocket and aircraft experts in Egypt by sending them letters booby-trapped with explosives. Such letters have killed several Egyptians and blinded the secretary of a leading German rocket scientist, Wolfgang Pilz.

Mr. Lotz, who entered the courtroom in handcuffs, went on trial this morning with his wife, Waltrud, and Franz W. Kiesow, a former representative here of the Mannesmann Steel Company of Düsseldorf.

The 10-count indictment

against Mr. Lotz and his wife asked for the death penalty, but Egyptian lawyers say the courts rarely impose capital punishment on foreigners. A young German convicted of having spied for Israel in Ma-

1964, was given a 10-year sentence but was released after six months.

Mr. Kiesow, charged with "obtaining national defense secrets through illegitimate means and sending them to his employer, faced up to 15 years in prison. Neither he nor Mrs. Lotz entered pleas today. Their lawyers have indicated they will plead not guilty.

All three defendants, held in prison since their arrest last Feb. 22, appeared in good health. They were represented by four Egyptian lawyers and two lawyers from West Germany who had been specially admitted by the three-member security court.

As overhead fans labored in vain to ease the sweltering heat, Mr. Lotz, testifying in a cool and dispassionate voice, described how he had been recruited in Europe by Israeli agents in 1960. He said he had sent information to Israel by secret radio.

The most dramatic moment

came when Mr. Lotz mentioned a set of explosives concealed in bars of soap and the court president, Hassan el-Badawi, asked the prosecution to produce the soap as evidence. Samir Nagy, the State Prosecutor, objected.

"Please, Your Honor, this is dangerous," he said. "We risked our lives twice investigating this case. There is no need to demonstrate them again in the courtroom."

U. S. Refuses to Comment

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 27 — The State Department had no comment today on reports that an Egyptian editor, Mustafa Amin, had confessed to having spied for the United States.

It also refused comment on Mr. Amin's alleged connection with Bruce T. Odell, an American official who has since returned to the United States.

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